

IRTS RADIO NEWS BULLETIN Sunday October 18th 1998

EI4HF in Sudan

As mentioned in a recent bulletin, Mike EI4HF from Youghal in East Cork has been overseas in Southern Sudan with Concern organising communications and logistics for the relief of the famine victims under "Operation Lifeline Sudan". Mike's work involves organising aid via air drops to the refugee relief camps in Southern Sudan. In the past week Mike has been on a mission to replace fellow team members stricken without food or water up the River Nile. This operation took over a week to accomplish. RTE sent a team to Southern Sudan in the recent past to report on the plight of the refugees. In the process Rodney Rice interviewed Mike EI4HF whilst in communication with team members who were in the process of organising a major airlift of vital supplies to the refugees in Southern Sudan. This is a daily occurrence for Mike and those with him and this programme will be heard on RTE Radio One on Monday October 26th at 1.45pm. in a programme called South of North. Mike has been reasonably active on the amateur bands and has regularly worked back into EI on both 20 and 17 metres. Unfortunately he is restricted to a fairly poor wire aerial and his signal is not huge.

Tipperary AREN on the Galtees

Four members of Tipperary AREN participated in a training exercise on the Galtees on Sunday October the 11th. They were Seamus EI8EPB using the club call EI7TRG/P, Liam EI7FE, Hugh EI2HI and Tommy EI2IT. The operators received reports from club members and several other operators from their home stations for which they are grateful. The trek, over a period of nine hours, covered a distance of about 18 miles and a climb of about 6,000 feet. There were nine peaks covered with considerable loss of altitude between each peak, hence the estimated total climb. Eight members of Tipperary Hillwalkers were also on the walk. The weather was dry but the wind was storm force near north facing cliff's making walking extremely difficult. The exercise was a severe test of physical endurance.

Upcoming HF Contests

The biggest contest of the year is the SSB CQ Worldwide and this will be held next

weekend October the 24th and 25th. A large number of DXpeditions have been announced for this contest and many of them will be active on all bands during the coming week testing their stations. There should be lots of opportunities to increase your country scores and contest stations are usually very good QSL'ers. For SWLS's, there is a contest running in parallel with the Worldwide and full rules are available from the news team.

Rallies

The Carrigfergus Amateur Radio Group annual Rally will be held at the Downshire School in Carrigfergus on Saturday next October the 24th. Information from GI8WBZ QTHR. The annual Donegal Rally will be held in Jackson's Hotel in Ballybofey on Sunday November the 1st. Information from Gerry Dykes EI8HO on 072-52598

EI1M cards ready for despatch

QSL cards for the Wicklow Wireless Society special event station EI1M from July 8th to 20th in Dun Laoghaire are now in the process of being distributed. All direct cards are in the mail and bureau cards will be dealt with shortly. The card is a beautiful full colour four sided one and is a credit to the organisers.

Help Wanted

Paul NA5N of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico, USA asks if you were on the air or listening to any radio on August 27th 1998 at 1022 utc. The VLF records show about a five minute period of total RF absorption, that is a total communications blackout at that time. However, it is not known what duration this event may have had in the HF portion of the spectrum, whether shorter or longer (the latter is likely). This would have caused a total or near total blackout on the AM broadcast band (550-1750khz) for several minutes. If you have a recollection of noticing this event or specific data from say a QSO in progress, please send Paul the information. This is an opportunity for radio amateurs to make a contribution if you were lucky enough to witness the phenomenon in some form or another. Paul's address is:- Paul M. Harden, 120 Garden Circle, Socorro, New Mexico 87801-4436, USA.

Greetings from Wales

Don GW0PLP has been in touch and wishes to advise EI Stations that he is always on the lookout for EI's on the 2 metre band. He is QRV with 100 watts to a 10 element Yagi on SSB and a vertical for FM. He monitors both 144.300 and 145.500MHz and is always on the lookout for new counties and squares. Don has worked many EI stations over the years and will be well know to many of you. He sends greetings to all his friends in EI. Don lives in Cardigan on the west coast of Wales and is in IO72RC.

Items for inclusion in the Radio News can be faxed to 021-632730 or passed on the telephone to Dave EI4BZ at 021- 632444 during the day and at 021-883555 in the evening.

Input for the Newsletter should be sent to Kevin EI7IM at QTHR or on 01-4509514 or on E-mail to EI7IM@tinet.ie All input to either the Radio News or the Newsletter can also be sent by e-mail to news@irts.ie

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